

2017-18 Influenza Vaccine Screening for Persons who Report Egg Allergy

For the 2017-18 influenza season, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends the following:

1. Persons with a history of egg allergy who have experienced **only hives** after exposure to egg should receive influenza vaccine
 - May use any recommended age-appropriate influenza vaccine (i.e., any IIV or RIV)
2. Persons who report having a reaction to egg involving symptoms **other than hives** (such as angioedema, respiratory distress, lightheadedness, or recurrent emesis) or who required epinephrine or another emergency medical intervention:
 - May receive any recommended age-appropriate influenza vaccine (i.e., any IIV or RIV)
 - Vaccine should be administered in an inpatient or outpatient medical setting
 - Administration should be supervised by a health care provider who is able to recognize and manage severe allergic conditions
 - No post-vaccination observation period recommended specifically for egg-allergic persons
 - However ACIP recommends that vaccine providers consider observing patients for 15 minutes following administration of any vaccine to decrease the risk for injury should syncope occur

Remember:

A previous severe allergic reaction to influenza vaccine, regardless of the component suspected of being responsible for the reaction, is a contraindication to future receipt of the vaccine.

“Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines: Recommendations of the ACIP—U.S., 2017-18 Influenza Season, *MMWR*, Vol. 66(2); 1-20, 8/25/17 located at www.cdc.gov/vaccines. For further information regarding flu vaccination, refer to www.michigan.gov/flu, www.cdc.gov/vaccines, or www.cdc.gov/mmwr.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services — Division of Immunization

Points to consider for the 2017-18 Influenza Season

- Influenza vaccine abbreviations
 - Inactivated Influenza Vaccine (IIV) – trivalent (IIV3) and quadrivalent (IIV4)
 - Cell-Cultured Inactivated Influenza Vaccine – quadrivalent (ccIIV4)
 - Recombinant hemagglutinin Influenza Vaccine – trivalent (RIV3) and quadrivalent (RIV4)
- **Severe allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, can occur to components of all vaccines**
 - Such reactions are rare and are not always related to egg proteins
- Review of the studies looking at IIV indicated that severe allergic reactions in persons with egg allergy are unlikely
 - In a Vaccine Safety Datalink study of over 7.4 million doses of IIV3 given without other vaccines, there were only 10 cases of anaphylaxis
- With the exceptions of RIV3, RIV4, and ccIIV4, currently available influenza vaccines are prepared by producing virus in embryonated eggs
 - RIV3, RIV4 and ccIIV4, are produced using non-egg based technologies, but only RIV3 and RIV4 are considered egg-free
 - RIV3 (Flublok®) and RIV4 (Flublok® Quadrivalent) are indicated for persons aged 18 years and older
- All vaccination providers and staff should be familiar with their clinical emergency response plan and certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- For clinics that are administering vaccines, a minimum of epinephrine and equipment for maintaining an airway should be readily available, and staff should be trained on how to use it appropriately
 - Emergency medications, such as epinephrine, and equipment should not be expired or outdated
- For persons who report an egg allergy, it is not recommended to administer divided doses of influenza vaccine or to skin test with the vaccine before administering any flu product

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